

I strongly protest Sinclair Broadcasting's use of the public airwaves to broadcast anti-Kerry propaganda in the guise of a documentary. This is nothing more than blatant attempt to influence the outcome of the presidential election, much the same as when Sinclair prohibited its stations from broadcasting a Nightline segment on the death toll in Iraq. The FCC's failure to adopt and police rules limiting media ownership permits this farce to take place. The FCC seems more interested in Janice Jackson's brief exposure and Howard Stern's crude humor than in protecting the integrity of the political process.

Sinclair's actions are just one more example of why consolidation of media ownership is not in the public interest. If the FCC is unwilling to limit the number of stations large corporations are permitted to own, at the very least it should adopt rules which grant complete autonomy to local station managers to choose what news and public interest will be broadcast, and which impose severe penalties, including non-renewal and divestiture, for any violations.

Thank you.